

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 15-22, 24-26, and 28-30, matter to be added is shown in underline and matter to be deleted is shown in strikethrough; and add new claims 37 and 38, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface; and

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface, wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion comprise complementary shaped surfaces and wherein the inner surface of the first portion interdigitates with and conformally mates with ~~substantially contacts~~ the inner surface of the second portion ~~over all regions of interdigitation~~ without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation.

Cancel claim 2.

3. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a series of undulations ~~have an undulating form~~.

4. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of wave-shaped surfaces ~~protrusions~~.

5. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two channels that are closer to the first portion than the remainder of the second portion.

6. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two feet.

7. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 3 ~~4~~ wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a series of undulations ~~ridges and grooves~~ and includes a plurality of feet.

8. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 7 wherein the undulations of the inner surfaces of said first and second portions span one dimension of said first and second portions and wherein each undulation includes a series of ridges and grooves that conformally mate with a series of ridges and grooves of a complementary undulation at the other of said first and second portions ~~inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of undulations having rises and falls and wherein each undulation at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each includes a series of ridges and grooves that mate in complementary fashion.~~

9. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the first portion comprises a generally flat plane ~~is generally planar.~~

10. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of one of said first and second portions is conformally molded to overly and bond to the inner surface of the other of said first and second portions in the regions of interdigitation ~~a) the inner surface of the first portion is molded to the inner surface of the second portion; b) the pallet is formed from puncture resistant plastics; and c) tack off points are located along peaks and valleys of the first and second portions~~

11. (currently amended) A blow molded pallet comprising:

a) a pallet body including:

i) a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a first

series of continuous undulations ~~continuous plane of rising and falling, parallel~~

~~corrugations~~; and

ii) a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a second series of continuous undulations ~~continuous plane of continuous rising and falling, parallel corrugations~~, and

b) wherein the first series of undulations interdigitate with and overly the second series of undulations without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation ~~corrugations of the inner surface of the first portion are interdigitated and connected to the corrugations of the inner surface of the second portion.~~

12. (currently amended) A pallet of claim 11 wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion are connected by molding one to the other such that the first and second series of undulations bond to one another during molding ~~corrugations of the inner surfaces of the first and second portions bond to one another.~~

Claims 13 - 14. Cancelled

15. (currently amended) A blow-molded pallet comprising:

a) a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface has a set of first channels and protrusions;

b) a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface has a set of second channels and protrusions; and

c) wherein the first and second sets of channels and protrusions comprise complementary shaped surfaces that mount in interdigitated relation to the other such that

the first and second sets of channels and protrusions conformally overly each other
without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation ~~that are mounted in interdigitated~~
~~facing relation with the first and second sets of channels and protrusions substantially~~
~~contacting one another over all regions of interdigitation.~~

16. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein one of the first and second sets of channels and protrusions is molded using the other of the first and second sets of channels and protrusions as a molding surface.

17. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein at least one of said first and second portions contains cavities and wherein the other of said first and second portions contains an extending member which is inserted into the cavity during molding to lock one of said first and second portions together ~~portion to the other~~.

18. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein one of said first and second portions contains a locking member, and wherein the other of said first and second portions contains a receiving member so that the locking member and receiving member communicate to lock of said first and second portions together ~~portion to the other~~.

19. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein one of said first and second portions includes a plurality of tack off points where the first and second portions connect to one another.

20. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein the upper portion includes at least one leg; and wherein the bottom portion includes one foot having a hollow portion for receiving a foot of the upper portion.

21. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, further comprising an upper portion first end and an upper portion second end included with the upper portion; and a bottom portion first end and a bottom portion second end included with the bottom portion, wherein at least the upper first end mates with the bottom first end.

22. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 ~~15~~, wherein one of upper and bottom portions is molded to the other such that the interlocked first and second sets of protrusions thermally bond to one another.

Claim 23 cancelled.

24. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise undulating corrugated surfaces in the regions of interdigitation portions.

25. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a plurality of feet and a plurality of intervening channels whereby the pallet can be accessed from a plurality of sides for raising and lowering.

26. (currently amended) A blow molded pallet comprising:

a first portion having a generally flat outer surface and an inner surface including a plurality of parallel undulations that span at least one dimension of said first portion ~~undulating planar ridges and valleys that extend in parallel to one another and are displaced from the outer surface;~~

a second portion having an outer surface including a plurality of depending feet and intervening channels and an inner surface including a plurality of parallel undulations that span at least one dimension of said second portion ~~undulating ridges and valleys displaced from the outer surface; and~~

c) wherein the undulations of the first and second portions mount in interdigitated relation to conformally overly each other without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation ~~the undulating ridges and valleys of the inner surface of the second portion are mounted in interdigitated contact with the undulating ridges and valleys of the first portion over all regions of overlap.~~

27. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the outer surface of the second portion includes a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys.

28. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the undulations at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions respectively define first and second wave fronts relative to a first axis and wherein undulations at each of said first and second wave fronts include a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys of third and fourth wave fronts that respectively bisect the first axis ~~the ridges of each undulation at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions define a wave front relative to a first axis and further include a plurality of undulating second ridges and second valleys that define a second wave front that bi-sects the first axis.~~

29. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 28 wherein the third and fourth wave fronts run orthogonal to said first axis ~~second wave front runs orthogonal to the undulating ridges and valleys of the second portion.~~

30. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of one of said first and second portions is molded over the inner surface of the other of the first and second portions ~~the first portion substantially defines a surface over which the inner surface of the second portion is molded.~~

Claims 31 – 36. Cancelled

37. (new) The pallet of claim 3 wherein the undulations at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions respectively define first and second wave fronts relative to a first axis and wherein undulations at each of said first and second wave fronts include a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys of third and fourth wave fronts that respectively bisect the first axis.

38. (new) The pallet of claim 37 wherein the third and fourth wave fronts run orthogonal to said first axis.